

# INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

## County of Los Angeles



### COUNCIL MEMBERS

JACKIE LACEY, Co-Chairperson  
District Attorney

JAMES McDONNELL, Co-Chairperson  
Sheriff, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department

CYNTHIA BANKS  
Director, Community and Senior Services

JEFFREY BEARD, PH.D.  
Secretary, California Department of  
Corrections and Rehabilitation

CHARLIE BECK  
Chief, Los Angeles Police Department

ANDRÉ BIROTTE JR.  
United States Attorney

RONALD BROWN  
Public Defender

PHILIP L. BROWNING  
Director, Children and Family Services

SHERRI R. CARTER  
Executive Officer/Clerk, Superior Court

PAUL COOPER  
Chief, Claremont Police Department  
President, Police Chiefs Association

RAMON CORTINES  
Superintendent, LA Unified School District

ARTURO DELGADO, Ed.D.  
Superintendent, Office of Education

MARGARET DONNELLAN TODD  
County Librarian, Public Library

MARK A. FAJARDO, M.D.  
Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner

MIKE FEUER  
Los Angeles City Attorney

RUSS GUINEY  
Director, Parks and Recreation

SACHI H. HAMAI  
Interim Chief Executive Officer

CYNTHIA A. HARDING  
Interim Director, Department of Public Health

KAMALA D. HARRIS  
California Attorney General

NANCY HAYES, LCSW  
UCLA Medical Center

JIM JONES  
Director, Internal Services

DR. MITCHELL H. KATZ  
Director, Health Services

MICHAEL LEVANAS  
Presiding Judge, Juvenile Court

WILL LIGHTBOURNE  
Director, California Department of Social Services

LINDA LOCKWOOD  
Appointee, Board of Supervisors

FRANCE NUYEN  
Appointee, Board of Supervisors

DARYL OSBY  
Fire Chief, Forester and Fire Warden

JERRY POWERS  
Chief Probation Officer

CHARLES ROBBINS  
Appointee, Board of Supervisors

SEAN ROGAN  
Executive Director, Community  
Development Commission

MARK SALADINO  
County Counsel

MARVIN SOUTHWARD, D.S.W.  
Director, Mental Health

SHERYL SPILLER  
Director, Public Social Services

August 4, 2015

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

### **REQUEST TO APPROVE A CONTRACT WITH THE JOE TORRE SAFE AT HOME FOUNDATION TO ESTABLISH A NEW MARGARET'S PLACE SITE AT VENICE HIGH SCHOOL (ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

### **SUBJECT**

This is to request the Board's approval of a contract with the Joe Torre Safe At Home Foundation for the establishment of a new "Margaret's Place" site at Venice High School to provide students a safe room in their school staffed with a full-time counselor and the support needed to heal from the traumatic effects of child abuse and domestic violence.

### **IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:**

1. Delegate authority to the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), or his designee, to execute a contract with the Joe Torre Safe At Home Foundation for the provision of a Margaret's Place site at Venice High School. The total cost of the contract is \$200,000, financed using the County Children's Trust Fund (AB 2994). The term of the contract will be for two years. The Board and the CEO will be notified within 10 days of the execution of the contract.
2. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or his designee, to exercise two-one-year contract renewal options by written notice, at a cost of \$100,000 per year, contingent upon availability of funding; if renewal option is exercised, the Director of DCFS, or his designee, will notify the Board and the CEO within ten days of issuing written notice to the Contractor.

4024 N. DUFFEE AVENUE  
EL MONTE, CA 91732  
(626) 455-4585  
Email: lcan@lancounty.ca.gov

DEANNE TILTON DUFFEE  
Executive Director

# ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

25 Aug 4, 2015

PATRICK O'SAWA  
ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICER



# INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

## County of Los Angeles



The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
August 4, 2015  
Page 2

4024 N. DUFFEE AVENUE  
EL MONTE, CA 91732  
(826) 455-4585  
Email: [ican@lacounty.gov](mailto:ican@lacounty.gov)

DEANNE TILTON DUFFEE  
Executive Director

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

DCFS has the responsibility for monitoring available funds in the County Children's Trust Fund established by AB 2994. Approximately seven years ago, DCFS notified the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) that there was a surplus of funds available in the Trust fund. Since that time there have been specialized programs developed and funded in all five Supervisorial Districts and one pending countywide program.

The five current programs funded by the County Children's Trust Fund providing services in each Board District are: (1) Child Abuse Prevention and Early Intervention Project for Developmentally Disabled Children in the First District; (2) Specialized Services in Response to the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Second District; (3) Family Visitation Center and Safe Child Custody Exchange Program in the Third District; (4) Incarcerated Parents Visitation Program in the Fourth District, and (5) Family Visitation Center and Safe Child Custody Exchange Program in the Fifth District. The sixth program, which will provide services countywide, is a mentorship and support program for pregnant and parenting transition age youth (TAY) families who are exiting the foster care system.

ICAN met with the President and the Director of Advancement for the Joe Torre Safe At Home Foundation (Safe At Home) to discuss funding a new Margaret's Place site at Venice High School for two years. Safe At Home reaches children who live in fear and witness violence in their homes, schools and communities. Safe At Home's intervention and prevention program, Margaret's Place, provides middle and high school students with a safe room to discuss child abuse, domestic violence, community violence, bullying and other complex issues that students encounter with a professional counselor and their peers. Margaret's Place Master's-level counselors provide individual and group counseling, as well as coordinate school-wide campaigns, teach a violence prevention curriculum, manage a peer leadership program, and provide targeted workshops and outreach for parents and staff. The four Core Messages of the Margaret's Place Program are: 1) The abuse is not your fault; 2) You are not alone; 3) You can get help – speak up!; and 4) The cycle of violence can stop with you.

The Joe Torre Safe At Home Foundation was created in 2002 by Joe Torre and his wife, Ali Torre, as a result of the impact that domestic violence had on Joe Torre growing up as a child. In 2005, the Foundation established its signature program, Margaret's Place, named in memory of Joe Torre's mother. Its overall mission is educating students and parents about the long lasting trauma that can result from child abuse and domestic violence and to work to end the cycle of violence and save lives. Joe Torre was the Co-Chair of the Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence which was part of the U.S. Department of Justice's Defending Childhood Initiative. Currently, there are



# INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

## County of Los Angeles



The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
August 4, 2015  
Page 3

4024 N. DUFFEE AVENUE  
EL MONTE, CA 91732  
(626) 455-4585  
Email: [ican@lacounty.gov](mailto:ican@lacounty.gov)

DEANNE TILTON DUFFEE  
Executive Director

eleven Margaret's Place sites in New York and New Jersey and three sites in Los Angeles County, including John Adams Middle School, Mark Twain Middle School and the Boys and Girls Club in Santa Monica.

The services provided by Margaret's Place are critical. Studies have shown that many children in the United States and, in Los Angeles specifically, are exposed to violence in their daily lives. These studies also show that exposure to violence without timely intervention has significant and damaging long-term effects including: behavioral, social and emotional problems as well as cognitive impairment materialized through poor grades, limited problem-solving skills and short attention span. Ultimately, there is a direct link between experiencing childhood trauma and chronic disease, alcoholism, drug abuse, depression and suicide. Further, children who grow up experiencing child abuse and/or witnessing domestic violence are more than twice as likely to become victims or perpetrators of abuse as adults, thus continuing the cycle of abuse and violence.

The proposal submitted by Safe At Home (please see the attached proposal and proposed budget) is for a two-year project, to partner with Venice High School to launch and operate a new Margaret's Place location in this high-need public school setting. This project will enable Safe At Home to provide much needed intervention and prevention services to youth who have been exposed to violence. This program will be based on Margaret's Place school-based intervention/prevention model providing a safe space, counseling, crisis intervention, classroom psycho-educational curriculum, peer leadership, awareness campaigns, and resources to youth in underserved communities exposed to or at high-risk for exposure to interpersonal violence.

The on-site Social Worker for this project (who will be a bilingual, Master's Level Counselor) will provide all required reports to the DCFS and will work with DCFS representatives to better meet the needs of directly impacted youth and their families. In addition, Margaret's Place staff will help to inform school employees about their roles as mandated reporters and provide assistance with how and when to make a child abuse referral when indicated.

Safe At Home determined that it wanted to launch a Margaret's Place site at Venice High School for a number of reasons. Venice High School has a student population that has had exposure to violence during their young lives, including child abuse, domestic violence, gang/community violence, teen relationship abuse, sexual assault and harassment and bullying. Many of the students live in low-income, high-violence communities. Venice High School serves a broad and diverse population of over 2,200 students who come from the surrounding communities of Venice, Marina Del Rey, Mar Vista and Del Rey, as well as other parts of the Los Angeles Unified School District including the Crenshaw District/Pico Union, Mid-City, South Central Los Angeles and Watts. Venice High





# INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

## County of Los Angeles



The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
August 4, 2015  
Page 4

4024 N. DUFFEE AVENUE  
EL MONTE, CA 91732  
(626) 455-4585  
Email: [ican@lacounty.gov](mailto:ican@lacounty.gov)

DEANNE TILTON DUFFEE  
Executive Director

Schools' students are diverse with 6 percent Asian, 11 percent African-American, 66 percent Hispanic and 14 percent White. Over 64 percent of students are eligible for the free/reduced lunch plan. Many of the students come from Mar Vista Gardens, a large housing project for impoverished families. Mar Vista Gardens has a history of gang violence, family violence and sexual assaults.

In addition, one of the current Margaret's Place sites, Mark Twain Middle School, is a feeder school to Venice High School. The students at Mark Twain Middle School consistently ask if there is a Margaret's Place at Venice High School as over 60 percent of the students at Mark Twain Middle School will attend Venice High School after they graduate. Safe At Home staff met with Venice High School's Principal to discuss the Margaret's Place program. The Principal expressed enthusiasm about having a Margaret's Place on campus starting in the upcoming school year. With inadequate funds to establish a Margaret's Place, a supervisor from Safe At Home in Los Angeles established a relationship with Venice High School by providing counseling for boys and girls and providing consultation for administration, teachers and staff.

Safe At Home utilizes the Bach Center as a third-party evaluator. The Bach Center specializes in research and evaluation consultation with a focus on conducting impact studies for non-profit organizations. Through the Bach Center, Safe At Home will assess program outcomes utilizing both quantitative and qualitative assessments similar to those previously employed, including a baseline survey, school personnel and general student surveys, pre/post workshop assessments, and direct service student surveys. It will also measure the effectiveness of its outreach strategies to the targeted communities. Safe At Home will use methods that are linguistically, culturally and age appropriate. Past outcomes of the Margaret's Place program show that 93 percent of students said that they feel safer; 85 percent of students said that it is easier to talk to someone instead of keeping things to themselves; 96 percent of students said that they feel more confident and have better self-esteem; and 98 percent of students said that they are more hopeful about their future.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

There is no fiscal impact on the County. AB 2994 funds are birth certificate surcharge funds deposited into the County Children's Trust Fund. The DCFS Finance Section has assured ICAN that there are sufficient funds available in the County Children's Trust Fund to fund this program for two years.



# INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

## County of Los Angeles



The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
August 4, 2015  
Page 5

4024 N. DURFEE AVENUE  
EL MONTE, CA 91732  
(626) 455-4585  
Email: [ican@lacounty.gov](mailto:ican@lacounty.gov)

DEANNE TILTON DURFEE  
Executive Director

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Background**

In 1982, the Governor of California signed into law two bills aimed at preventing and treating child abuse and neglect. The first bill, Assembly Bill (AB)1733/Papan (Chapter 1398, Statutes of 1982), authorized the allocation of state funding to counties for child abuse prevention and intervention services offered by public and private, non-profit agencies.

The second bill, AB 2994/Imbrecht (Chapter 1399, Statutes of 1982), established a County Children's Trust Fund for the purpose of funding child abuse and neglect prevention and intervention programs operated by private, nonprofit organizations. AB 2994 requires that four dollars of any fee for a certified copy of a birth certificate shall be allocated to a County Children's Trust Fund.

This funding also provides a designated multi-disciplinary child abuse council in each County to develop and recommend funding priorities for the County Children's Trust Fund to the Board of Supervisors. In Los Angeles County, ICAN is the designated child abuse council.

#### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

The services proposed by Safe At Home went through a significant vetting process completed by ICAN. A special Ad Hoc Group was formed comprised of key experts on child abuse and domestic violence from the Los Angeles County Office of Education, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles Police Department, District Attorney's Office, Department of Children and Family Services, Department of Public Health, the Coroner's Department and the Domestic Violence Council. This Ad Hoc Group held a face-to-face meeting with Safe At Home representatives and engaged in an extensive discussion about the impact and value of the proposed services. The Ad Hoc Group enthusiastically supported this program and indicated their appreciation of the fact that this program is both trauma-informed and uses a self-referral, peer-based model. Many representatives attending this meeting indicated their willingness to support this new Margaret's Place site and provide any requested training or linkages to services in this community.

DCFS has responsibility for administering contracts between the County and private, non-profit community-based agencies providing specialized services through utilization of funds from the County Children's Trust Fund. The overall goal of this funding is to support child abuse prevention, intervention and treatment activities to help protect the families and children of Los Angeles County. The proposed program seeks to provide services to a target population that is highly in need of these services. Based on the



**INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT**  
**County of Los Angeles**



The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
August 4, 2015  
Page 6

4024 N. DUFFEE AVENUE  
EL MONTE, CA 91732  
(626) 455-4585  
Email: [ican@lacounty.gov](mailto:ican@lacounty.gov)

DEANNE TILTON DUFFEE  
Executive Director

history and success of Safe At Home, these services will help to ameliorate the traumatic effects that school-aged children experience as a result of their exposure to child abuse, family violence, violence at school and in their communities. After receiving Board approval to utilize the County Children's Trust Fund for these services, DCFS and ICAN will utilize the proposal submitted by Safe At Home to finalize and execute the contract.

**CONCLUSION**

Upon approval by the Board of Supervisors, it is requested that the Executive Officer/Clerk of the Board send an adopted stamped copy of the Board letter and attachments to:

1. County of Los Angeles  
Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect  
Attn: Deanne Tilton  
4024 N. Durfee Avenue  
El Monte, CA 91732

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deanne Tilton".

Deanne Tilton  
Executive Director  
Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN)

DT:es

Enclosure

- c: Sheriff Jim McDonnell, ICAN Co-Chairperson  
District Attorney, Jackie Lacey, ICAN Co-Chairperson  
Sachi Hamai, Interim Chief Executive Officer  
Philip L. Browning, Director, DCFS  
Children's Board Deputies



**JOE TORRE SAFE AT HOME FOUNDATION**  
1250 Fourth Street, Third Floor, Santa Monica, CA 90401

**Proposal to the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN)**

**To support the Joe Torre Safe At Home Foundation Margaret's Place at  
Venice High School, CA**

**May 1, 2015**

## **Summary**

The Joe Toe Safe At Home Foundation is requesting a \$200,000 grant to fund a new Margaret's Place site at Venice High School for two years. Margaret's Place will provide the over 2,200 high school students with a safe room in their school where they can find a full-time counselor and the support they need to heal from the devastating effects of domestic violence.

## **Background**

The Joe Torre Safe At Home Foundation was created in 2002 by Joe Torre and his wife, Ali, as a result of the impact that domestic violence had on Torre growing up as a child. In 2005, the Foundation established its signature program, Margaret's Place, named in memory of Joe's mother. Its overall mission is educating to end the cycle of domestic violence and save lives.

Safe At Home reaches children who live in fear and witness violence in their homes, schools and communities. Safe At Home's intervention and prevention program, Margaret's Place, provides middle and high school students with a safe room to discuss domestic violence issues with a professional counselor and their peers. Margaret's Place Master's-level counselors provide individual and group counseling as well as coordinate school-wide campaigns, teach a violence prevention curriculum, manage a peer leadership program, and provide targeted workshops and outreach for parents and staff. The four Core Messages of the Margaret's Place Program: are: 1) The abuse is not your fault; 2) You are not alone; 3) You can get help – speak up!; and 4) The cycle of violence can stop with you.

The Margaret's Place model is making a positive difference in young people's lives. To date, we have reached over 47,000 students through our 11 Margaret's Place sites located in middle and high schools and community organizations throughout metropolitan New York and Los Angeles. Over 21,000 of these students have participated in individual or group counseling with a Master's-level counselor. Because of the counseling they received at Margaret's Place:

- 93% of students said that they feel safer
- 85% of students said that it is easier to talk to someone instead of keeping things to themselves
- 96% of students said that they feel more confident and have better self-esteem
- 98% of students said that they are more hopeful about their future

Safe At Home has 16 full-time employees, 4 part-time employee as well as 40-50 volunteers who assist each year. Safe At Home works closely with local domestic violence and youth service providers including Peace Over Violence, Boys & Girls Club, Westside Domestic Violence Network, UCLA Softball, and Sojourn Services for Battered Women and Their Children in Los Angeles as well as Safe Horizon, Sanctuary for Families, Violence Intervention Program, A Call to Men, and the NYC Family Justice Centers (operated by the NYC Mayor's Office) in New York City, among many other service providers. Safe At Home also contracts with Westchester Jewish Community Services which operates four Margaret's Place locations in Westchester



County (NY) and North Hudson Community Action Corporation which operates one Margaret's Place in Union City, NJ.

Further, Joe Torre is the Co-Chair of the Task Force on Children Exposed to Domestic Violence which is part of the U.S. Department of Justice's Defending Childhood Initiative.

### **Statement of Need**

The services provided by Margaret's Place are critical. Most children in the United States are exposed to violence in their daily lives: over 60% of children are exposed to violence within the past year both (directly and indirectly) with 41% experiencing a physical assault, 14% experiencing child maltreatment, 9% exposed to family violence, 10% of girls ages 14-17 experiencing sexual assault, and 4.7% of all girls experiencing dating violence within the past year.<sup>1</sup> Further, the lifetime victimization of 14-17 year-olds witnessing a family assault is 34.5% and indirectly exposed to family assault is 10.1%.<sup>2</sup> Similarly, the Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Study found that 13% of participants witnessed their mothers being treated violently during their childhood.<sup>3</sup>

Exposure to violence, without timely intervention, has significant and damaging long-term effects such as behavioral, social, and emotional problems, as well as cognitive impairment materializing through poor grades, limited problem-solving skills, and short attention span. Ultimately, there is a direct linkage between experiencing childhood trauma and chronic disease, alcoholism, drug abuse, depression, and suicide.<sup>4</sup> Further, children who grow up witnessing domestic violence are more than twice as likely to become victims or perpetrators of abuse as adults, which continues the cycle of violence.<sup>5</sup>

We are seeking funding to launch a Margaret's Place in Venice High School, which would allow for critical resources to be provided to a student population that has had exposure to violence during their young lives including domestic violence, gang/community violence, teen relationship abuse, sexual assault and harassment, child abuse, and bullying.

Venice High School serves a diverse population of over 2,200 students who come from the surrounding communities of Venice, Marina Del Rey, Mar Vista, and Del Rey as well as other parts of the Los Angeles Unified School District including Crenshaw District/Pico Union, Mid-City, South Central LA, and Watts. Venice High School students are diverse with 6% Asian, 11% Black, 66% Hispanic, and 14% White. Over 64% of students are eligible for the free/reduced lunch plan. Additionally, many of the students are exposed to domestic violence. In the

---

<sup>1</sup> Finkelhor D, Turner HA, Shattuck A, and Hambry SL. (July 2013) Violence, Crime, and Abuse Exposure in a National Sample of Children and Youth: An Update. *JAMA Pediatrics*. 167(7): 614-621.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> The Adverse Childhood Experiences Survey. An Overview of the ACE Study Findings. <http://bit.ly/114XYFi>

<sup>4</sup> Relationship of Childhood Abuse and Household Dysfunction to Many of the Leading Causes of Death in Adults: The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study. *Am J Prev Med* 14(4): 245-258.

<sup>5</sup> Whitfield CL, Anda RF, Dube SR, and Felitti VJ. (February 2003) Violent Childhood Experiences and the Risk of Intimate Partner Violence in Adults. *J Interpers Violence* 18 (2): 166-185.

aforementioned neighborhoods in 2013, there were over 6,948 spouse abuse-battery crimes (38% of total in Los Angeles) and 3,341 spouse abuse aggravated assault (33% of total in Los Angeles).

Mark Twain Middle School, one of our existing Margaret's Place host-school sights, is a feeder school for Venice High. Implementing the Margaret's Place program at Venice High will allow Margaret's Place to continue to provide services to and track some of our high-need graduating Mark Twain students in addition to offering services to the entire Venice High population.

### **Proposed Project**

Safe At Home will partner with Venice High School to launch and operate a new Margaret's Place location in a high-need public school setting for two years. Establishing a Margaret's Place safe room on the Venice High School campus will enable Safe At Home to provide much needed intervention and prevention services to youth who have been exposed to violence including domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault and teen dating violence, or are at high-risk for victimization.

The program will be based on Margaret's Place's school-based intervention/prevention model providing a safe space, counseling, crisis intervention, classroom psychoeducational curriculum, peer leadership, awareness campaigns, and resources to youth in underserved communities exposed to or at high risk for exposure to interpersonal violence. A Margaret's Place safe room impacts the general student population at each school by promoting violence awareness, as well as by teaching violence prevention strategies and coping mechanisms through an anti-violence curriculum, targeted school-wide campaigns, Peer Leadership activities, and a variety of workshops. Students experience the full range of activities throughout their tenure at the school, and come away with increased awareness of violence issues, increased knowledge of violence prevention strategies (e.g., speaking up), and increased use of coping mechanisms for dealing with stress and trauma.

The Margaret's Place Counselor will be bilingual and work directly with those children who have been affected by violence, and assist them in acquiring the skills necessary to live healthy, safe lives through individual and group counseling.

Margaret's Place has 10 years of experience outreaching and providing services to youth victims of violence in school communities and will utilize school/classroom/staff outreach, awareness campaigns, and preventive workshops to assist in identifying students who have been exposed. Margaret's Place staff will train school staff and safety agents to better identify the signs of exposure as well as to establish safety protocols at the school for young people and parents who have or are being victimized.

Referrals will be assessed by the full-time onsite Social Worker who will provide counseling services and make appropriate referrals when necessary.

In the Margaret's Place model, eight distinct program components dovetail, allowing Safe At Home to strengthen the resilience of students who have been exposed to violence.

- 1. The Margaret's Place Room** – A dedicated room in the school where students can go to talk or “hang out” in a comfortable environment that feels safe to them – a place where respect and confidentiality are the rule.
- 2. Individual & Group Counseling** – A full-time bilingual Social Worker, specifically trained in violence intervention/prevention, provides individual and group counseling to students who have witnessed or experienced abuse.
- 3. Violence Prevention Curriculum** – The curriculum is designed to address specific knowledge objectives relative to violence and abusive behaviors.
- 4. Workshops & Discussion Groups** – These are small group sessions that reinforce Margaret's Place concepts and objectives (e.g., *Dating Safety*, *Healthy Communications*, *Bullying*, etc.), and allow students to explore a specific topic or issue in depth.
- 5. School-wide Campaigns** - Margaret's Place Social Workers stage at least two major campaigns per school year at their sites. These are fully coordinated awareness campaigns that mobilize the entire school community (students, teachers, and administrators) around themes of respect and violence prevention.
- 6. Peer Leadership Program**  
As ambassadors for the Margaret's Place Program, Peer Leaders are trained in the fundamentals of public speaking, conflict mediation, and all facets of violence and abuse. These students play an active role in educating their peers – often co-facilitating activities with the Margaret's Place Social Workers.
- 7. Staff Training**  
Margaret's Place Social Workers conduct a minimum of two annual trainings aimed at providing teachers, administrators, and support personnel with an overview of domestic violence, how it impacts youth, and what to do if family violence is suspected. A variety of topical workshops are also offered (e.g., recognizing signs of abuse, etc.).
- 8. Parent Events**  
These activities include an annual *Talking to Teens About Healthy Relationships* workshop for parents, presentations on relevant topics at Parent Teacher Association (PTA) meetings, and the distribution of Margaret's Place materials and resources at all open houses, back-to-school nights and parent-teacher conference days. A parents' survivor group in Spanish will also be established.

Over the course of this 2-year grant, Margaret's Place at Venice High School will directly reach an estimated **150 violence exposed youth**, by conducting approximately **575 counseling sessions**. Additionally, an estimated **3,500** youth will be reached through violence prevention services. The program will also reach an estimated **100 parents** through preventive workshops and **5,000 parents** with informational resources.

### Intersection with Department of Child and Family Services

The onsite Social Worker will make all appropriate Department of Child and Family Service (DCFS) reports and work with DCSF representatives to better meet the needs of directly impacted youth and their families. Margaret's Place has worked closely with DCFS to help keep children living with abuse safe since its launch in Los Angeles in 2011. At several of our Margaret's Place locations including Venice, we have the only full-time social worker on-site. As such, we have found that schools often rely on us to consult with on cases where child abuse, suspected child abuse, or domestic violence is present. All public school personnel are mandated to receive training about how to identify and report suspected child abuse, however oftentimes the trainings do not happen or are insufficient. For example, school employees do not always understand that they are mandated reporters or how and when a report should be made. Therefore, Margaret's Place Social Workers often step in to fill this gap by providing necessary supplementary staff trainings and help school administrators clearly articulate protocols. In this way Margaret's Place has enabled necessary DCFS reports to be made when they otherwise would have gone unreported. All Margaret's Place Social Workers have been trained in issues related to child abuse and how to make DCFS reports. Furthermore, the Safe At Home Foundation has clear and strict protocols regarding cases involving child abuse.

### Implementation

#### Month 1-2:

- Upon award of the grant, will recruit, interview and hire a qualified (Master's level), bilingual Margaret's Place Coordinator to be resident at the school during normal school hours.
- The Program Director will hold an initial meeting with the school Principal to discuss responsibilities, implementation of the school program including, space identification, protocols, and next steps.
- Margaret's Place staff will obtain necessary supplies, furniture, and equipment and will set up the Margaret's Place room.
- The Program Supervisor and/or Margaret's Place Counselor will provide training for school staff including the impact of domestic violence, sexual assault and teen dating violence on young people; how to identify and make appropriate referrals; and safety/confidentiality protocols at the school.
- The Margaret's Place Counselor will adapt outreach materials for parents and students
- In partnership with the school and with oversight from the Program Supervisor, the Margaret's Place Counselor will develop the scheduling process for individual and group counseling, plan for the annual delivery of core curriculum to targeted student group, and schedule annual delivery of four training modules to all teachers and staff through faculty meetings or related venues.
- Official launch of the program.



#### Months 3-5:

- Margaret's Place Counselors will begin to identify, reach out to, and assess appropriate students for the Peer Leadership Program as well as launch school personnel and parent programming.
- Margaret's Place Counselor will provide Intro to Margaret's Place workshops for students.
- Margaret's Place Counselor will send letter to parents announcing the Margaret's Place program and service.
- Counseling services for youth survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and teen dating violence will be fully implemented.
- Margaret's Place Counselors will meet weekly with the Program Supervisor for supervision and support.
- Initial training held for school personnel.

#### Months 6-8:

- Begin piloting student groups.
- Assess for a potential parents' survivor group.
- Continue to provide workshops and outreach, distributing parent materials.
- Continue to provide counseling, Peer Leader, and plan and hold special events.
- Continue to provide trainings for school personnel.
- Continue to conduct workshops and outreach to parents.

#### Months 9-12:

- Launch a parent's survivor group.
- Continue to provide workshops and outreach, distributing parent materials.
- Continue to provide counseling, Peer Leader, and plan and hold special events.
- Continue to provide trainings for school personnel.
- Continue to conduct workshops and outreach to parents.

#### Months 13-24:

- Continue to provide workshops and outreach, distributing parent materials.
- Continue to provide counseling, Peer Leader, and plan and hold special events.
- Continue to provide trainings for school personnel.
- Continue to conduct workshops and outreach to parents.
- Continue parents' survivor groups.

*Note: During the summer months, the activities of the Margaret's Place Counselor shifts to preparing for the upcoming school year, conducting community outreach, and participating in Safe At Home organization-wide staff development activities.*

#### Proposed staffing pattern including names, titles and expertise of who will direct

The program is staffed by highly qualified personnel. Together, they form a diversified team that guides/ensures programmatic success.

- Joe Torre – Chairman: Mr. Torre grew up in a home with domestic violence and has become a national advocate for youth exposed to violence. In 2002, he and his wife, Ali Torre, created the Joe Torre Safe At Home Foundation. In 2012, he was appointed by the U.S. Attorney General to co-chair the Defending Childhood Initiative’s Taskforce on Children Exposed to Violence.
- Alice Torre – President: In 2002, Ali Torre, along with her husband, Joe Torre, created the Joe Torre Safe At Home Foundation to provide education in order to end the cycle of domestic violence and save lives.
- Yolanda B. Jimenez – Executive Director: Yolanda Jimenez brings a wealth of experience to the Foundation having most recently served as the head of the Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s Office to Combat Domestic Violence for nearly twelve years. Prior to her work as Commissioner, Jimenez served as Deputy Police Commissioner of Community Affairs for the New York City Police Department.
- Tracy Weber-Thomas – Associate Executive Director: Tracy Weber-Thomas brings over 15 years experience of domestic violence program management, development and communications. Prior to her work at the Foundation, she was a Deputy Commissioner under New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio.
- Jessica Mischkot – Program Director: Jessica Mischkot oversees all Margaret’s Place programming and has 19 years of experience providing services to youth exposed to domestic violence. In 1996 she started volunteering in the children’s program at an emergency shelter and has been part of Safe At Home since 2006.
- Jessica Beemer, LMSW – Program Supervisor: Jessica Beemer is a committed victim advocate and began her work with the Safe At Home Foundation as a Margaret’s Place Counselor in 2011. She will supervise the Margaret’s Place program at Venice High.
- TBD – Margaret’s Place Counselor: The Margaret’s Place Counselor will provide counseling and other services to youth exposed to violence at our host school and have expertise in clinical, violence intervention/prevention, school-based, and youth work.

## **Evaluation**

The Margaret’s Place program has a history of providing impactful services to youth victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and teen dating violence. Past outcomes of our programming show a significant decrease in our youth clients’ symptomology as well as signs of improved resilience and functioning in daily life. We expect that expanding to Venice High School will yield similar outcomes with youth victims.

Safe At Home will assess program outcomes utilizing both quantitative and qualitative assessments similar to those previously employed including a baseline survey, school personnel

and general student surveys, pre-post workshop assessments, and direct service student surveys as well as measure effectiveness of outreach strategies to the targeted communities. Safe At Home will use methods that are linguistically, culturally, and age-appropriate. Over the course of this grant, Margaret's Place at Venice High School will directly reach an estimated **150 violence exposed youth**, by conducting approximately **575 counseling sessions**. Additionally, an estimated **3,500** youth will be reached through violence prevention services. The program will also reach an estimated **100 parents** through preventive workshops and **5,000 parents** with informational resources.

Further, we anticipate that at least 75% of students who receive counseling through the Margaret's Place Program will:

- Feel a greater sense of safety
- Develop healthy communication skills
- Be inclined to seek help instead of keeping things to themselves
- Develop increased resilience and feel more empowered including
  - Make smarter choices
  - Do better in school
  - Stand up for themselves
  - Identify and choose alternatives to violence

We anticipate that the General Student Population will:

- Demonstrate an increased willingness to speak up/seek help if they are being hurt or abused

We anticipate that the members of the school community:

- Will demonstrate an increased willingness to speak up if they see or suspect others being hurt or abused.

#### **Budget Overview (Details in Appendix A)**

We are requesting a total of \$200,000 to support the Margaret's Place program for two years at Venice High School.

<b>24-Month Budget</b>	<b>Amount requested</b>
Personnel	132,500.00
Fringe benefits	51,549.13
Supplies	2,880.00
Equipment	6,200.15
Other	6,870.72
<b>2-YEAR TOTAL</b>	<b>\$200,000.00</b>

#### **Conclusion**

Margaret's Place has made a significant impact in the lives of young people helping them to overcome their fears and end the cycle of violence that so often continues through generations. With the support of the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN), Safe At Home will be able to provide prevention education and intervention to thousands of students, parents, and school personnel at Venice High School. The Joe Torre Safe At Home Foundation is grateful for ICAN's consideration and look forward to our potential collaboration.

**Joe Torre Safe At Home Foundation Margaret's Place at Venice High School, CA**  
**PROPOSAL to the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN)**  
**24-Month Budget**

**Personnel**

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Annual salary</i>	<i>% to Program</i>	<i># of months</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
Margaret's Place Counselor	To be hired	\$ 50,000.00	100%	24	\$ 100,000.00
Program Supervisor	Jessica Beemer	\$ 65,000.00	25%	24	\$ 32,500.00
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 132,500.00</b>

**Fringe Benefits**

<i>Component</i>		<i>Salary (24 months)</i>	<i>Rate</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
FICA		\$ 132,500.00	7.65%	\$ 10,136.25
Health, Dental and Life Insurance*		\$ 132,500.00	22.32%	\$ 29,574.00
Retirement		\$ 132,500.00	6.00%	\$ 7,950.00
Worker's Compensation		\$ 132,500.00	0.91%	\$ 1,205.75
Unemployment		\$ 132,500.00	2.025%	\$ 2,683.13
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38.91%</b>	<b>\$ 51,549.13</b>

\* *Varies based on elected services, average % included here*

**Supplies**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Rate per month avg</i>	<i># months</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
Program Supplies/Resources	Books, films, curricula, room décor, etc	\$ 53.00	24	\$1,272.00
Office Supplies		\$ 35.00	24	\$840.00
Art Supplies	Art therapy, workshops, special projects	\$ 32.00	24	\$768.00
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,880.00</b>

**Equipment & Furniture**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Rate for 1-time purchase (start-up only)</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
Computer Equipment	Computer, printer and accessories	\$ 2,200.15	\$ 2,200.15
Furniture	Desk, chair, bookshelves, seating, etc	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,200.15</b>

**Other**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Rate per month avg</i>	<i># months</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
Staff development	Mandatory professional development	\$ 76.00	24	\$1,824.00
Outreach	School-wide campaign items, incentives	\$ 80.00	24	\$1,920.00
Peer Leadership Resources	Field trips, training items, guest speakers, meeting snacks, special events supplies	\$ 70.25	24	\$1,686.00
Equipment Maintenance		\$ 20.03	24	\$480.72
Duplicating and Printing	News letters, memos, book marks, flyers, tip	\$ 20.00	24	\$480.00
Shipping/Postage		\$ 20.00	24	\$480.00
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,870.72</b>

**Indirect**

Not requested

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

Personnel	\$ 132,500.00
Fringe Benefits	\$ 51,549.13
Supplies	\$2,880.00
Equipment & Furniture	\$6,200.15
Other	\$6,870.72
<b>Total Direct</b>	<b>\$ 200,000.00</b>
Indirect	\$ -
<b>Total 24-month costs</b>	<b>\$ 200,000.00</b>